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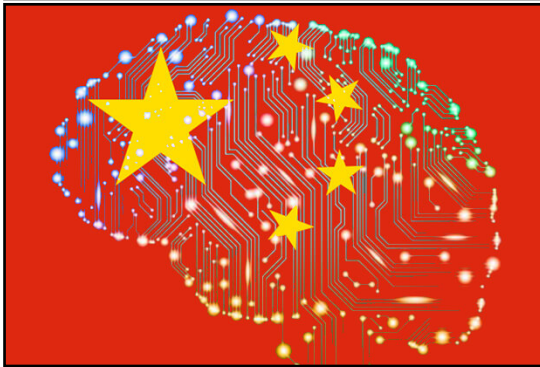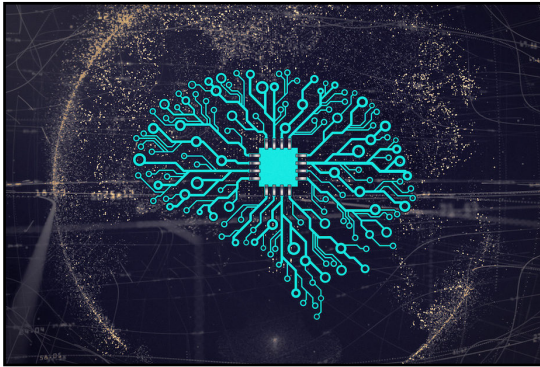
ROLE OF AI IN RESHAPING REGIONAL ORDER

A Case of Indo-Pacific Region

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Abstract

The world is witnessing a dramatic shift over the last few years in the advancement of technologies and rise of populism in many countries – especially after the insistence of President Vladimir Putin on the future role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and therefore, Chinese rigorously participating in the process. It is conceded that AI has a multidimensional role, both positive and pessimistic, as it particularly shapes public perception rapidly with the use of algorithm. In this context, this paper seeks to analyze the increasing role of AI – particularly the Chinese version of AI – in reordering and shaping regional order in the sub region of Indo-Pacific; it also underlines its role in conflict resolution in general. Based on this, with the help of qualitative and analytical approach, it is argued that Indo-Pacific is free and an open sub- region under international law like other oceans. But, the Chinese version of regional order in future may be possible—which needs to be underlined – through AI strategies and trap. This challenge can be dealt by creating a community of nations, like the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), in order to build a secure and peaceful Indo-Pacific order. It is concluded by saying the invention of AI is pivotal which can be used to resolve potential threats, but the manipulation of public perception may and would change its objective in a country's national interest, such as what is being done by China.

Introduction

The new invention and technology are an integral part of human civilization that brings up behavioral change in society and international relations as a whole. The last couple of decades are witnessing a new sort of technology, known as artificial intelligence, that is transforming the way international politics is conducted and foreign policy, including decision making, is influenced. It affirms that "the AI has been trained on data that relates to international politics, domestic politics and other related issues" (Katte 2018). This is an interesting invention. Nonetheless, one should also not forget the uses of technology and for what purposes are they being used. It is imperative to underline as the leverages of AI are a lot but it also poses a threats to human and civilization security.

The growth of technology has been a long process and influenced the behavior of people at the onset. They are no longer being used by merely military as this changed after the Cold War period. The AI is a fourth industrial revolution based on automation, machine and deep learning and problem resolution. Therefore, it would not be contested to recount that "the industrial revolution of the 18th century also had a great impact on international affairs and trade and relations" (Katte 2018). Since then, humans have sought to enhance its capability to invent and transformed the life - especially the invention of fire, agriculture, cities, industries and so on. It is thereby proclaimed that as "embedded in the digital revolution, AI will help determine the international order for decades to come, accentuating and accelerating the dynamics of an old cycle in which technology and power reinforce one another" (Miailhe 2018: 2).

As the AI has diverse roles to perform the international community has also required to be recognized its role in shaping regional order, as what China is doing with investing alot in AI. China is investing lot and has incorporated Artificial Intelligence in its national and strategic policies since 2017 after the 19th Party Congress. The world although has been thinking on it implicitly at the onset - especially during the Cold War.

Therefore, to discuss in detail the subject this article has been arranged in six sections: the first section deals with the relation between technology and international relations. It would also show how the importance of technology is

rising in the domain of international politics. The second section recognizes the role of Artificial Intelligence and its roles in world politics. The third section addresses the role of AI, specifically in conflict resolution. The forth section underlines the development of AI in China and analyzes how it is influencing the Indo-Pacific region by manipulating technology and reordering regional and international order. The fifth section finds out the opportunities international community could leverage from these - which will be listed later, and the sixth section concludes by saying that the AI technology and its applications, such as deep learning, could be benefitial for humankind if used rightly, but as seen in case of China how it is using it to manipulate the perception in Indo-Pacific and reordering regional and international order.

Technology and International Relations

International relation is a field of dynamism in which new technologies and discoveries have been shaping the global discourse. Likewise, International relations and regional security are being influenced by emerging technologies, implicitly and explicitly. It has largely been seen in the military innovation and nowadays seen in how it is being used in soft power development and so on. It is the technological advantage that facilitates to figure it out if a local crisis becomes global through which (with the help of technologies and innovation) the crisis could be early sorted it out. Likewise, regional order at present is being shaped by "Artificial intelligence (AI) and associated group of digital technologies like internet of things (loT) and big data, blockchain, quantum computing, advanced robotics, self-driving cars" (Danilin 2018).

The history of world politics demonstrates that the first and foremost technology was used for military purposes, such as missile, tanks, and other buildings. This has been seen during the World War I and II. It was also an important feature of the Cold War era, a period known for nuclear weapons race, Inter-Continental Missiles and defense system. At the same time, there have been several occasions when the questions of whether machine can perform intelligence work, the 1956 Dartmouth conference for instance. It is indeed valid to point out that during the Cold War period "neither the US nor the Soviet military expressed interest in computers with the same sort of 'minds' people

have, but they eagerly supported foundational AI research with the goal of creating machines capable of making high-quality decisions" (Geist 2016: 318).

The last couple of years have also shown that AI is rapidly shifting the world politics and its landscape as countries are keenly working on Unmanned Aerial weapons and drones. It would not hesitate to recount that "in the past decade, AI has gone from science fiction to reality" (Pau, Baker and Houston (2017:2). With the use of AI, the global balance of power may come under radar to monitor the behavior of countries, like China, which, with using its centralized command and control surveillance system, are seeking to influence regional order in Indo-Pacific in particular and the international order, as the liberal international order is deteriorating, in general. "For the past several decades, the global balance of power has been maintained with nuclear deterrence among the nuclear powers or the concept of mutually assured destruction. AI military applications may fundamentally change this balance of power" (Miyake 2019).

Nonetheless, pessimists believe that the repercussions of Artificial Intelligence would be inhuman and may give threat to the survival of human beings. This statement, whether is valid or invalid, is subject of rigorous discussions as technology has also shown positive results. But, the misuse of it as countries are doing as mentioned above could change the perception of it as proclaimed that "the most obvious is a problem of opinion manipulations using big data and AI. The role of Cambridge Analytica in the Donald Trump campaign and multiple other cases, including alleged Russian infiltration in the 2016 US elections shows that this problem is real" (Danilin 2018). On the other hand, "China, for instance, has attracted criticism from human rights advocates over alleged uses of facial recognition technology to track members of the Uighur people, a predominantly Muslim community in Xinjiang" (Meara 2019).

Recognizing Artificial Intelligence and Its Roles

International relations has been witnessing a change at the onset. In the beginning, technology and its uses were only confined to military and its related field only. However, it took not much time for the international community to open its technologies for public. The rise of Artificial Intelligence is a milestone in the affairs of conflict resolution studies and health field. Nonetheless, one

should not forget the importance of AI and its different roles it plays to mitigate the conflicts and establish peace. It is claimed that as far as AI is concerned "it is firmly rooted in the field of computing and was consubstantial with its emergence in the 1940s, today it refers to a broad range of disciplines, technologies, and methods" (Miailhe 2018:3). It is clear that the file of AI is broad and its functions are wide that does not confine to any specific disciplines and subjects. At present, the narrow AI is being used. It is defined that "narrow AI is the ability for a computer to solve a specific kind of problems or perform a specific task" (Reese 2018: 42).

In addition, the idea of AI is still contested and discarded by scholar as it may be misused. "The fourth industrial revolution will have an immense impact on how humans communicate with each other for better and for worse" (Segal 2017). To define AI is one of the major challenges as writer sees it from different eyes and rationalize it in a specific context, however, one should not lose patience, there are of course set of definitions could be figured it out. Stuart Russell in his book *Artificial Intelligence: A Modern Approach* states by defining AI "the study of methods for making computers behave intelligently" (Russell 2018). There are two major elements of it, one is different methods and another is machine behaving like human. Science and Tech fiction movies are becoming indeed reality and would shape public behavior and decision making through soft and hard measures. The global health security crisis, which may and would lead a recession throughout the globe, caused by the COVID-19 virus originated in Wuhan, China, is likewise being monitored and traced with the AI technologies. On the other hand, it is entailed "as a disciplinary ecosystem populated by various subfields that use (often big) data to train goal-seeking technologies and simulate human intelligence" (Sarah 2019). It is imperative to understand how AI works in a hostile and critical environment. With the use of AI applications - especially machine learning - a system could be forged through which deep learning tool could be deployed to understand it and sorted it out without affecting others. The use of AI shall be context specific and needs to be understood with surveillance system. "It is a wide-ranging tool that enables people to rethink how we integrate information, analyze data, and use the resulting insights to improve decision making" (West and Allen 2018).

Moreover, AI is a sort of technology that has made hardware to think, behave, and play like a human being. It has increased the speed to solve critical

problems. It is maintained that "AI development promises to bring enhanced accuracy and efficiency to complex and dangerous tasks" (Greenberg 2020). For instance, big data is being sorted out through the deep learning and machine learning tools, which is unprecedented, never seen, or practiced before.

Given the wider uses of AI in different fields, it is needed to be recognize it in the discipline of international relations and its strategic uses in shaping perceptions to manipulate reordering regional and international order - especially Indo-Pacific region - as the study is limited to examine it only. China as a risen AI power is implicitly influencing the global order through its AI-cum-distraction power to achieve the "Chinese dream" with its characteristics. How does AI influence global power? According to Sarah Shoker (2019), it has two ways: 1) "AI redistributes the physical infrastructure that is needed to exert influence"; and 2) "AI redistributes power." The above underlined major methods as of how AI could lead and win the world are indeed substantive to understand the roles of AI and balance of power. Although it is imperative to note that AI has enhanced the capability to rationalize the actions made by China in South China Sea as a peaceful rising country. It would also facilitate to rebalance and redistribute the power from the democratic United States to communist China led proxies.

AI and Conflict Resolution

It is imperative to understand that before the arrival of Artificial Intelligence technologies, the field of conflict resolution was confined to its traditional methods to resolve conflicts. The idea of conflict resolution is thought as a process at governmental and non-governmental level through which conflicts are sorted out. There were several traditional conflict resolutions means available to look into, such as dialogue, discussion, diplomatic efforts, mediation, arbitrations, International Court of Justice and so on. These methods did not lose their significance, nonetheless, have been reinforced with the emerging technologies. China as rising technological power that presents opportunities and threats to global security as some scholars believe is actively engaging in conflicts with major powers - especially the United States, Russia, UK and others - for energy, resource security and its evolving geopolitical objectives to shape global narrative. South China Sea is an integral part of Indo-Pacific

region that shall be free and open for international community as international waters.

Moreover, conflict resolution professionals should reevaluate their theories and practices to address new challenges through the convergence of the physical, digital and biological dimensions" (Segal 2017). The last couple of years have witnessed the emergence of technologies, familiar as Artificial Intelligence, which is unprecedented. "Artificial Intelligence (AI), the notion that computerized systems can replace human thought processes and interactions, continues to gain traction in all areas of life including the legal profession and in particular in the field of dispute resolution" (South and Rogers 2018). It has changed the way of life. Artificial intelligence is being considered pivotal not because of merely its invention but also its task to resolve conflicts. It is multidimensional and multitasking as it performs several works at the same time. It is imperative that "the technologies of AI include machine learning, computer vision, intelligent robotics, biometrics, swarm intelligence, virtual agents, natural language processing, and semantic technology" (Miailhe 2018:3). It is being claimed that with the uses of deep and machine learning, an application of AI, the complex problems and conflicts could be understood, diagnosed, and prescribed solutions. It is a non-traditional way of conflict resolution that is using all the non-traditional means but in new forms such as pattern recognition. Likewise, "the design user experience (UX) should include conflict resolution principles such as cultural awareness, empathy and understanding different perspectives" (Segal 2017).

Chinese AI: A Rising Manipulative Power in Reshaping the Indo-Pacific Discourse

Technology is considered as an important measure, even amidst of coronavirus period, through which China is seeking to influence regional order or potentially reshaping it with the Chinese characteristics. Therefore, it would not be wrong to state that "from a soft to a sharp power shift in Chinese foreign policy make it more suspicious and cautious with regard to its traditional adversaries" (Shekhar 2019:348) In Indo-Pacific region, it is making it clear that it is not going to give up its national and strategic interest. The technologically led implicitly the Cold War 2.0 race is encouraging other country to engage in Indo-Pacific region. It is

claimed that "All states, including the United States and China, are now engaging in an intense competition to build dual-use capabilities in cyber and artificial intelligence that can change the face of warfare" (Han and Paul 2020:24).

Moreover, the use of Indo-Pacific term is still unequivocal. Each country with different context is rationalizing it by incorporating or excluding other country. The region covers from Africa shore to the Pacific Ocean. It is such as wide area that is included in its scope. However, given the development of Indo-Pacific from the Japanese PM Abe's visit to India in 2007 (before that the IDSA led discussion implicitly on it) to the Prime Minister Dr. Singh's Japan visit to the Modi's Shangri-La dialogue that makes clear about the understanding of Indo-Pacific concept, although many countries such as the United States, Australia and so on, have adopted their own Indo-Pacific strategy. China has already advanced and deepened its strategic interest in the African continent through aid diplomacy and so on.

However, the last couple of months have seen a drastic rise of China, technologically, and becoming Artificial Intelligence power to lead the democratic world with its authoritarian and nationalistic characteristics. It is believed that "China's plan to have globally leading AI companies by 2030 is also within reach, given the growing expertise of its three core tech companies, Tencent, Baidu and Alibaba" (Meara 2019). These are leading companies using advance system of deep learning and perception management.

The South China Sea, is a part of Indo-Pacific region, through which China is shaping regional and international order. It is indeed a smart grand game that country is playing and utilizing opportunities as maintain "China's behavior of aggressively developing, utilizing, and exporting increasingly autonomous robotics weapons and surveillance AI technology runs counter to China's stated goals of avoiding an AI arms race" (Allen 2019). To take serious of these advancements, it is required countries to forge a community of trust to maintain status quo of which China could be part of it if committed legally, not violate international treaty, such as the UK and China treaty in Hong Kong to expire unilaterally the autonomous status of it, however, it is imperative to underline what requires countries with diverse culture to build it. It is acknowledged that "a community is forged when likeminded countries think their culture,

traditions, beliefs, music and folklores" are similar including norms and common objectives (Shekhar 2019:123). Nonetheless, China has different system which aggressively strives to shape regional and international order.

Opportunities

Technology brings both benefits and opportunities in the domain of international relations and countries, such as China, and others, are using it. it is maintained that "the most concerning element in the Chinese AI application is the breakthrough in the Chinese Communist Party's capability to monitor, identify, locate and finally arrest whoever is deemed hostile by the regime" (Miyake 2019). However, it likewise gives threats to peace and stability in world politics - especially in Indo-Pacific region. Therefore, it is needed to be deal with carefully. In order to use AI for humankind, it is important for the world community to seek to work on potential opportunities as follows: monitoring of AI by recognized institution is one of the ways, by which the misuse of it could be recognized; transparency of utilization also requires to be enhanced; China and others are needed to be ensured so that its use will be for development, peace and stability, not manipulation of decisions in other countries; Indo-Pacific is a region that is free and open for all required to be thought beyond confrontation and balance of power among great powers and AI uses shall be ensured to be benefited with all; manipulation of decision making through AI needs to be monitored and ensured its democratic uses while conducting international engagement and foreign policy; it is imperative to forge a global technical community in order to prevent the Non-State Actors from gaining and misusing AI technologies; and the international community is required to be used in conflict resolution.

Moreover, the world is required to avoid another outbreak of corona virus in which the AI has been used at the outset. It is alleged that the rise of it is a man-made activated virus in Wuhan, China. To deactivate it is needed to be caught that man to eliminate this virus which has affected billions of people, economically, killed millions of peoples; being demanded of independent investigation of its rising.

In addition, India is doing well since 2014. The world is required to learn from India under Modi led government as how it dealt with corona virus pandemic, using AI technologies and protecting its "COVID-19 Warriors", and seeking to flattering the curve through a successful community management and boosting persistently the confidence of people by providing all essential items and goods. It has been an intelligence victory of India through using artificial intelligence in fight against coronavirus; it has also presented a model, like South Korea, against the fight. The preventive diplomacy of India since the outbreak of coronavirus in Wuhan, China, has likewise boosted its image across the globe.

Conclusion

As noted above, it has proved that the technological aspect in international relation has been a continuous journey. The evolution of Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a historical invention the world has ever seen in conflict management and perception management. As the roles of AI are diverse—which can be deployed in almost every field and disciplines—the world is likewise needed to utilize it for the betterment of humankind. Nonetheless, there are countries, like China, knowingly or unknowingly, is using it for its propaganda as seen in the South China Sea particular and the Indo-Pacific region in general, and the coronavirus case facilitated it in shaping global opinions in order to shape international and regional order. It is also a subject and a part of its "Chinese Dream" by the world. Undoubtedly, the nature of system cannot be ignored. As an authoritarian country, China is practicing a bias policy, whether in trade or investment domestic or international, therefore, it has no right to criticize other country, like India and its FDI policy that recently changed it for "curbing opportunistic takeovers/acquisitions of Indian companies due to the current COVID-19 pandemic" and allow through government of India's route excepted those that share "land border with India", such as Pakistan, Bangladesh and so on.

Thus, technological advancement in the world and the resulted the rise of Artificial Intelligence as a superpower being leveraged by China is indeed a subject of detailed investigation. It would be an opportunity for the world community to look into it and forge an environment of cordial relationship.

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